

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
AMDMBASSY WARSAW 731
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 3645

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, UR, IT, NATO
SUBJECT: GROMYKO'S VISIT TO ITALY

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE
REF: ROME 9473

SUMMARY: IN JULY 8 NAC MEETING, ITALIAN PERMREP (CATALANO)
BRIEFED ALLIES ON VISIT TO ITALY OF SOVIET FONMIN GROMYKO.
ITALIAN DEBRIEF CLOSELY PARALELLED INFORMATION REFTEL. END
SUMMARY.

1. IN JULY 8 COUNCIL MEETING, ITALIAN PERMREP (CATALANO)
BRIEFED ALLIES ON SUBJECTS GROMYKO'S LATE JUNE VISIT TO
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ITALY.

2. IN DISCUSSION GENERAL EUROPEAN SITUATION, GROMYKO STRESSED THE
IMPORTANCE TO PEACE OF GERMANY'S AGREEMENTS WITH THE SOVIETS, POLAND

AND THE GDR. DETENTE MUST BE IRREVERSIBLE AND MUST TAKE CONCRETE FORM.

3. ON CSCE, GROMYKO REHEARSED CURRENT SOVIET THEMES ABOUT IMPORTANCE OF CONFERENCE AND DEPLORED OBSTACLES CREATED BY THOSE INTERESTED IN OBSTRUCTING PROGRESS. IN URGING STATE SUMMIT IN JULY, GROMYKO QUESTIONED EC INSISTANCE ON SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS WHEN US AND FRG HAD ALREADY AGREED TO A JULY CSCE FINALE. IN REPLY, ITALIANS INSISTED ON NEED TO RESOLVE REMAINING CSCE ISSUES AND SAY ALL WESTERN GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING US AND FRG, WERE AGREED ON THAT POINT.

4. GROMYKO STRESSED THAT RECIPROCITY SHOULD BE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON MBFR. HE MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF INCLUDING NUCLEAR ELEMENTS IN MBFR AND REFERRED TO HINTS FROM AMERICAN SOURCES IN MOSCOW AS BASIS FOR SOVIET INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT.

5. ON SOVIET-EUROPEAN RELATIONS, GROMYKO REFERRED TO BREZHNEV'S JUNE 13 STATEMENT THAT THE SOVIETS WERE READY TO DEVELOP THEIR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. TERMING RELATIONS WITH ITALY "SATISFACTORY", GROMYKO HOPED THEY COULD BE DEVELOPED FURTHER IN FUTURE. GROMYKO EXPRESSED OPTIMISM ABOUT EUROPE'S FUTURE AND EXPECTED SOVIET "PEACE" LINE TO BE FOLLOWED BY OTHER EUROPEAN STATES.

6. DISCUSSING THE "COMPLEX AND DANGEROUS" MID-EAST SITUATION, GROMYKO CITED THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF ARAB TERRITORIES AND THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM AS CONTRIBUTING FACTORS. GROMYKO EXPRESSED STANDARD SOVIET RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE "STEP-BY-STEP" ME NEGOTIATING PROCESS AND CONFIRMED CONTINUING SOVIET INTEREST IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE.

7. REFERRING AGAIN TO BREZHNEV'S JUNE 13 SPEECH, GROMYKO NOTED THE NEED FOR REACHING AGREEMENT BANNING "NEW TYPES OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION". THE SOVIETS WOULD BE PREPARED TO DEFINE WHAT THEY MEAN BY SUCH WEAPONS ONCE OTHERS HAVE

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AGREED TO NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT THEM. GROMYKO ALSO PRESSED FOR AN EARLY WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE AND LAMENTED NEGATIVE ATTITUDE OF CERTAIN COUNTRIES WHICH SUPPORT DETENTE BUT INCREASE THEIR DEFENSE EXPENDITURES. GROMYKO WENT ON TO ACCUSE AS "LACKING SERIOUSNESS" AND "IRRESPONSIBLE" THOSE WHO THINK IT POSSIBLE TO USE TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS AT LIMITED LEVELS. ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER RUMOR REPLIED THAT THE PROVISION OF CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS TO SENSITIVE AREAS RAISED PARTICULAR CONCERNS.

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BUDAPEST
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ROME

MBFR VIENNA
AMDMBASSY WARSAW
SOFIA
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